GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2233
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scientific flood management programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved so far in controlling the floods;

(c) whether any request for having a foolproof flood management programme for those districts of West Bengal has been received which are affected due to occasional floods from various rivers; and

(d) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government for a comprehensive master plan for the purpose including the above said affected zone of West Bengal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) and (b) Planning, investigation and execution of flood management works are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. Government of India renders assistance in works that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The flood management programme envisaged in the country is based on the recommendations of various Expert Committees and Organisations such as the Rashtriya Barh Ayog (1980), Ganga Flood ControlCommission (1972), Brahmaputra Board (1981), High Level Committees(1987) as constituted by the Government of India. These Committees of Experts have examined the flood problems in the country and suggested various measures for management of situation. Providing absolute protection to all flood prone areas against floods is neither practically possible nor economically viable. Hence the practical approach of providing a reasonable degree of protection against flood damage at economic costs through a judicious combination of structural and non structural measures is being followed.

The structural measures employed are construction of embankments, reservoirs, drainage channels, detention basin etc. and non-structural measures are flood plain zoning, flood forecasting and warning, flood proofing, flood fighting, flood disaster relief, flood insurance etc.

The achievements made so far on flood management works are as under:-

Embankments	16,200 km.
Drainage channel	32,003 km.
Town protection works	906 nos.
Village raised	4,721 nos.
Area benefited	14,374 million hectare.

Central Water Commission under this Ministry is maintaining 157 flood forecasting stations on 62 major rivers comprising of 8 river basins spread over 13 States. During the year 2000, as many as 6,510 nos. of forecasts were issued to the concerned State Governments/Organisations with an accuracy of 97% to mitigate the flood damage and save life and property.

Under a pilot scheme started in 1978 by the Ministry of Water Resources, a total area of 55,000 Sq.Km. have been surveyed for enactment of flood plain zoning legislation by the flood affected States. Flood Plain Zoning maps have been sent to all the concerned States to enact flood plain zoning legislation. Only the States Rajasthan and Manipur have enacted this legislation.

(c) & (d) Central Government has not received any such proposal from the State Government of West Bengal.However, Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared comprehensive plan for flood control for the following river basins of West Bengal for evolving a long term strategy to solve the flood problem in the State.

1. Main Ganga
2. Damodar
3. Ajoy
4. Rupnarayan

5. Mahananda
6. Mayurakshi

The comprehensive plans have been sent to the State Government of West Bengal for implementation.